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H – 912

International Court of Justice

H0912 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL, DATED 13 MARCH, 1946.

THURSDAY, 23 MAY, 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

Colonel A. M. S. Neave
Mr. Rasumov

THE SS

(The Commission convened at 1430 hours)

JOHANNES STEIN, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY COLONEL NEAVE:

Q Will you raise your right hand and will you repeat this oath after me?

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath)

COLONEL NEAVE: You may sit down.

Now, Dr. Pelckmann, according to your application the subject of this man's testimony is the separation of the Waffen SS from the WVHA and the Amtsgruppe, that is correct, is it not?

DR. PELCKMANN: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: You will be careful not to cover the same ground as JUETTNER has already covered. Go on.

DR. PELCKMANN: It is not the same thing.

H0912 - 0003

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q What position did you hold in the Economic Administration main office?

A I was personnel expert for the leaders of the administration in the Waffen SS.

Q In which Amtsgruppe were you occupied?

A I was in Amtsgruppe A.

Q What Amtsgruppes did the Economic Administration carry on?

A It had A, B, C, D and W.

Q What were the tasks of these Amtsgruppes?

A Amtsgruppes A and B were the actual administration of the Waffen SS and Amtsgruppe ~~XX~~ C had construction undertakings for the Waffen SS. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Amtsgruppe W united the Himmler Economic enterprises which were built up on a purely economic basis. ~~XXXX~~ Amtsgruppe D had charge of everything connected with the Concentration Camps.

Q How did it happen that such various fields were under the economic administration of the main office?

A It was Himmler's way to handle various tasks under one leader. He could just as well have entrusted the tasks to a different higher SS leader or office chief, as after that Amtsgruppe D was under the Chief of the Economic Administration Main office army leader.

Q What was this Amtsgruppe D called before?

A Amtsgruppe D was formerly the inspector at concentration camps. When it was placed under the Economic Administration main office the name

H0912 - 0004

was changed to Amtsgruppe D.

Q When was that?

A In the summer or September of 1942.

Q Who was the chief of these Amtsgruppes, that is, who was the chief of the economic administration main office?

A The chief of the WVHA was Pohl and each Amtsgruppe had it's own chief of the rank of major general.

Q You said you were personnel expert for administration leaders?

A Yes.

Q Did you have to deal with the personnel questions of the heads of the concentration camps?

A No, all of the SS personnel at concentration camps were dealt with by Amtsgruppe D.

Q Did the other Amtsgruppes have any connection in the business matters of Amtsgruppe D?

A No, that was not possible because Amtsgruppe D had a completely different field of work.

Q Through being pl aced under Pohl was it possible for one Amtsgruppe to know anything of t he work of another Amtsgruppe?

A No connection was possible. The coordination was only in the fact that we were under the person of Pohl. They were physically separated as follows: Amtsgruppes A, B and C were housed in one administration building in Berlin. The mail for these offices went to one post office. There was one teletype machine there and the personnel duties of the personnel Amtsgruppes A, B and C were dealt

H0912 - 0005

with by the one office, and in turn administration was set up by Amtsgruppes A, B and C. The Amtsgruppe D was located in Oranienburg. It has it's own postal facilities, it's own teletype connection, independent personnel office, and had it's own administration for the concentration camps.

Q Where there other reasons, in your opinion, why one Amtsgruppe could have no knowledge of the matters of the other Amtsgruppes?

A Because of the completely different type of work, Amtsgruppe A, B, C and W had no knowledge of the work of Amtsgruppe D.

Q Were the affairs of Amtsgruppe D secret?

A The affairs of Amtsgruppe D were kept secret on principal and went through to the Chief of the Main Office, to Pohl.

Q Was personnel exchanged between Amtsgruppe D and the other Amtsgruppes?

A No, the personnel remained in Amtsgruppe D as it had been formerly in the concentration camp inspector. The training of administration Amtsgruppes was special training which could not be used in concentration camp matters.

Q Who was the head of Amtsgruppe D?

A Gruppenfuehrer Gluecks.

COLONEL NEAVE: Spell that.

A G - l - u - e - c - k s.

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q You said before that Amtsgruppes A, B, C and W had administrative tasks for the Waffen SS. Who dealt with administrative questions of the General SS?

H0912 - 0006

A Until the beginning of the war the administrative tasks of the General SS were dealt with by it's own administrative office. Through the draft of members of the General SS the work had dwindled to a minimum. The work was not enough to justify the means and it was assigned to an office in Amtsgruppe A.

Q Could the Waffen SS or the General SS give orders to Amtsgruppe D dealing with concentration camps?

A No, no agency of the Waffen SS or the General SS had authority to give orders in concentration camp matters.

Q How was the personnel of Amtsgruppe D in the concentration camps made up?

A The members of Amtsgruppe D came from the Totenkopf formations and the concentration camp command forces.

Q What do you mean by Totenkopf formations?

A That is the Totenkopf regiments which existed before the war.

Q Were known SS members active in Amtsgruppe W and to what extent?

A Originally Amtsgruppe W had almost exclusively civilians.

Q For what reasons?

A Because training in the specialized field of work was a prerequisite for employment.

Q How did this develop further?

A During the war part of these employees were drafted into the Waffen SS. This was a substitute for the freedom from military service.

H0912 - 0007

Q Can you say whether Amtsgruppe D had anything to do with assigning people to concentration camps or ~~ex~~ releasing them?

A No, so far as I know that was a matter for the Reich Security Main Office.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q I have one question to ask. Although the other departments or Amtsgruppes of the WVHA did not know the details of the work carried out by Amtsgruppe D, they knew, did they not, that Amtsgruppe D was responsible for the administration of concentration camps?

A Yes, we knew that.

H0912-0008

1500-1600
23 May, 1946
Meehan.

BY LT. COL. BROOKHART:

Q Did you serve in the Waffen SS from 1933 to 1935?

A Yes.

Q Were you a member of the SA from 1930 to 1932?

A Yes.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q Did you join the active fighting service?

A Yes.

Q Can you give me the dates you saw service in the field and with what units?

A In 1939, from the beginning of the Polish campaign to the end of the Polish campaign.

Q Did you serve during the entire Polish campaign?

A Yes. I also served from the beginning of August, 1943 to March, 1944 with the 8th SS Division at Charkow.

Q Is that in Russia?

A Yes.

Q Were you not fighting between the time of the Polish campaign and August, 1943?

A No.

Q What were you doing during that time?

A Since January, 1940 I served with the administrative office of the Waffen SS. From January, 1942 I was in the WVHA personnel office.

Q In what unit of the 8th SS Division were you fighting from August, 1943 to March, 1944?

A In the divisional staff as divisional intendant. (Paymaster.)

H0912-0009

Q Were you fighting at all after March, 1944?

A No.

DR. PELCKMANN: I forgot to ask one question before, may I be permitted to ask it now?

COLONEL NEAVE: You have not completed your re- examination, have you?

DR. PELCKMANN: I have no questions arising in the cross examination, but I would like to ask now one question, which I forgot to ask on my examination.

COLONEL NEAVE: Colonel Griffith Jones, do now you wish to cross examine on this again?

COLONEL JONES: Griffith I shall let it go.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Pelckmann, you may proceed.

DR. PELCKMANN: I understand that the division was made up of economic concerns. Please describe the concerns.

THE WITNESS: Brick works, wood works, the Nordland Porcelain Company, food supply companies and mineral water factories.

COLONEL NEAVE: We are now finished with the witness.

(The Commission Adjourned at 15:20 hours)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANNES STEIN, taken on 23 May 1946.

Rose W Cook
Reporter (pp. 1-6)

Alice Meehan
Reporter (pp 7-8)

Reporter (pp)

CERTIFIED TO:

Am Neave Lt Col.
Commissioner

J Rasumov.
Commissioner.